

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

(SR 308-320-10)

DATE

20 Sep 1954

PREPARING OFFICE

Hq USFA, AC of S, G2 (CIB/SSB), APO 168, US Army

SUBJECT

US Citizens reportedly
Detained in USSR

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED

ON

BY

6/8/40
CDR USAINSCOM FOIPD

CODE FOR USE IN INDIVIDUAL PARAGRAPH EVALUATION

OF SOURCE:

COMPLETELY RELIABLE A
USUALLY RELIABLE B
FAIRLY RELIABLE C
NOT USUALLY RELIABLE D
UNRELIABLE E
RELIABILITY UNKNOWN F

OF INFORMATION:

CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES . . A
PROBABLY TRUE B
POSSIBLY TRUE C
DOUBTFULLY TRUE D
IMPROBABLE E
TRUTH CANNOT BE JUDGED . . . F

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

Auth Para 1-603 DoD 5200.1-4

The following information was obtained from an Austrian journalist who allegedly was arrested in Vogtland, East Germany, on 22 December 1948 while on courier duty for a CIC agency. Source was imprisoned in various Soviet prisons from his arrest until June 1954. Source has been given an evaluation of "F".

1. Early in 1950 Source claims to have met an American army officer and two enlisted men in uniform (further data not known) in the Soviet screening prison in Halle, East Germany. The Americans told Source that they had been captured by Soviet troops when crossing the Bavarian some border by mistake. The East German press announced that the Americans had asked for asylum. The three Americans were sentenced to forced labor for espionage and were transferred to a penal camp in Vorkuta, USSR, where Source later met them in November 1950.

2. Source claimed that in late 1953 he met one Mary HIRSCHFELD, U. S. citizen, in the MVD prison Igublyanka in Moscow. HIRSCHFELD had formerly been a typist for the U. S. Embassy in Moscow. Fellow prisoners told Source that HIRSCHFELD had been arrested in Moscow in early 1953 in connection with an espionage affair in a jet fighter plant in Moscow. Her trial took place in the above-mentioned prison in June 1953 and in November 1953 she was sentenced to 25 years forced labor. Source claimed that the Soviet chief engineer of the fighter plant was also arrested after he had taken a ride in the car of a U.S. Colonel, (fnu) HARVEY, first secretary of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

3. In the penal prisoners camp No. 9 in Vorkuta, Source met a former U.S. CIC Colonel who was known in the camp by his former German name, Faerst von BRANDENFELS. Source knew that BRANDENFELS had changed his name when he became a U.S. citizen prior to World War II, but did not remember the American name of this man. BRANDENFELS claimed that he had been stationed in Berlin after World War II and had visited the Soviet Zone regularly with an East German pass for reasons unknown to Source. Once he visited the "Mexico" Bar in East Berlin and got involved in a dispute. The bar was then checked by Soviet troops and, since BRANDENFELS was drunk, he showed his CIC credentials instead of his East German pass and was arrested. BRANDENFELS was sentenced to 25 years forced labor for espionage in East Germany and was transferred to Vorkuta where he was still stationed when Source left in November 1951. Source believed that BRANDENFELS was employed as a laborer in a mining equipment repair shop.

4. According to hearsay, a former U.S. pilot, name and rank unknown, was confined in one of the camps in the Vorkuta area. Source heard that the pilot

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FORMATION

was captured in the Berlin airlift in 1948-49. He then worked for a time for the Army and was captured by the Soviets in 1950. He was then held in the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union allegedly arrested the pilot, captured him for the Soviet Union, and then released him.

1. In the Soviet screening process in 1954, that person, source not known, was captured, was working for the U.S. and was then released to the Soviet Union. Source stated that the person was of American descent and had been captured by an American when he was a child. He was then held in the Soviet Union and served in the U.S. Navy. During the war the person was sent to America on a special mission, was arrested by the Germans in France and sent to the concentration camp Schirmeck because of espionage. In 1945 the person was liberated by the Americans. In an unknown date following World War II the person was sent on a special mission to the USSR but was arrested by the Soviets in East Germany.

2. Andrew BROWN, U.S. citizen, about 40 to 50 years old, formerly known as [redacted] and resident in Berlin-Wilmersdorf. BROWN had worked for the U.S. since 1950 and received U.S. citizenship. He was captured by the Soviets in 1954. BROWN allegedly changed his name to [redacted] and was working in Germany in 1954. He was sent by an unknown U.S. agent on a special mission to East Germany and was arrested by the Soviets in a restaurant. He was sentenced to 25 years in prison. Source met him in the penal prisoners camp No. 9 in Berlin.

3. Source stated that an unknown number of MI's were confined in the prison in Berlin-Wilmersdorf, but was unable to identify the men further. Source had heard that these men were arrested for illegal border crossing either in Berlin or [redacted].

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